

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10 and 12-24 are now present in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons For Entry Of Amendments

Applicants submit that this Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants are responding to a new ground of rejection set forth in the Final Office Action. In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10 and 12-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over von Gutfeld et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,055,035 (hereinafter "Gutfeld"), in view of D.E. Damouth, U.S. Patent No. 3,512,173 (hereinafter "Damouth"). Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gutfeld in view of Damouth, and further in view of Masazami et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,331,884 (hereinafter "Masazami"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

These rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites, for example, a combination of elements including "the liquid crystal material is emitted from the projecting portion

substantially in the same direction as the resonator vibrates.” Claim 9 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 9 recites, for example, a combination of elements including “the liquid crystal material is emitted from the projecting portion substantially in the same direction as the resonator vibrates.” None of the cited references teach or suggest at least the above-noted features of the claimed invention.

The Examiner relies upon Damouth for the resonator of the claimed invention. Damouth discloses that a piezoelectric crystal 17 is directly connected at approximately right angles to a plate 18 horizontally vibrates so that a droplet breakup can become very regular and uniformly shaped droplets can be formed. That is, the droplet is emitted from a nozzle 12 perpendicular to the direction of the vibration of the piezoelectric crystal 17. This is completely different from the aforementioned feature of the claimed invention. The other utilized references also fail to teach this claimed feature.

For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 4, 7-8, 15, 17-18 and 21-22, and claim 9 and its dependent claims 10, 12-14, 16, 19-20 and 23-24 are allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

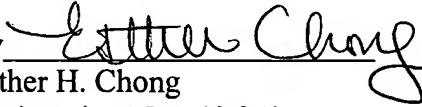
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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